Loyola
OF MONTREAL

For Release Monday, December 22

CENTENNIAL TOURNAMENT OPENS

Basketball is hard to sell in Montreal because of the hockey that dominates the sporting scene but the Loyola promoters have proven it can be done over the past three years.

Four teams are entered in what is officially tagged the Fourth Annual Loyola of Montreal Centennial Basketball Tournament starting tonight at 6:30 and for a moderate price it promises to be the best show in town.

Brandeis however, has the inside track defending their championship and Labatt Trophy won last year. Coach K.C. Jones who starred with the Boston Celtics brings essentially the same lineup as a year ago.

Bob Nayer, most valuable player in the '68 Tournament is back as are forwards Tom August and guards Kevin Anderson and Marc Eisenstock.

The Judges will tip off against Norwich University Cadets in the tourney opener tonight at 6:30 p.m. while the host Loyola Warriors will meet crosstown rivals McGill Redmen at 8:30.

Norwich is a small club, its tallest man being 6'3" but the Cadets are reputedly superbly drilled on fundamentals and in fine physical condition.

The Warriors-Redman game is of course a natural in a rivalry that began last year when 6'6" Nasko Colonescv was electrifying them on Pine Avenue. The McGill-Loyola game is strictly a toss-up affair.

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Loyola is beginning to play up to their full potential as they head into the Tournament. Co-captain Earl Lewis, guards Jim Ivy and Tom Profenno and Jack Contos will all dress as Loyola seeks to walk off with the coveted Labatt Trophy for the first time. In league play the Warriors have amassed the longest league play winning streak in the country with 32 straight victories in the OSL.

McGill will be without the services of Chad Gaffield, their clever guard, but are otherwise healthy and Coach Tom Mooney promises a superior effort.

"We've come a long way in the last four weeks", said Mooney, "And we're a basketball team now and will be ready to give them a good game." If tonight's Loyola-McGill encounter is anywhere near last year's two thrillers the fans will more than get their money's worth. Seating is on a first come basis. Last year Loyola officials had to disappoint more than 400 fans by turning them away at the McGill-Loyola Winter Carnival game.

The winners of tonight's semi finals will meet Tuesday night at 8:30 for the Labatt Trophy with the consolation game at 6:30.